

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8323

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AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

USLO PEKING

USINT HAVANA

USUN NEW YORK 1499

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1744

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AO CG PEPR

SUBJECT: FON MINISTER UMBA BRIEFS REPS OF AMERICAN, BRITISH,  
CHINESE, FRENCH AND SOVIET EMBASSIES ON ZAIRIAN-ANGOLAN RELATIONS

REF: A)) KINSHASA 1491 B) KINSHASA 1706

1. SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 18, ZAIRIAN FON MINISTER GAVE BRIEFING

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ON ZAIRIAN-ANGOLAN RELATIONS TO LOCALLY RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC REPS  
OF PERMANENT MEMBERS OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL. ONE PURPOSE OF PRE-  
SENTATION APPARENTLY WAS TO COUNTER ANGOLAN PROPAGANDA  
CAMPAIGN AGAINST ZAIRE AND CAST GOZ IN ROLE OF INJURED PARTY.  
ALSO IMPLIED WAS WARNING TO LUANDA THAT ZAIRE IS MORE THAN ABLE  
TO DEAL WITH ANY INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL THREAT WHICH MIGHT BE  
INSTIGATED BY ANGOLA. END SUMMARY

2. JUST BEFORE LEAVING FOR EXTENSIVE TRAVELS IN CONNECTION WITH EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SUPPORT FOR GOZ'S "MOBUTU PLAN" FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY, COMMISSIONER (MINISTER) FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS UMBA DI LUTETE HELD BREAKFAST MEETING FEBRUARY 18 TO GIVE BRIEFING ON ZAIRIAN-ANGOLAN RELATIONS TO HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE WHOSE GOVERNMENTS HAVE PERMANENT SEATS IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL. OTHER GOZ OFFICIAL PRESENT WAS FON MINISTER DIRECTOR GENERAL IDZUMBUIR. BREAKFAST GUESTS WERE AMBASSADOR OF CHINA AND CHARGES D'AFFAIRES OF FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, SOVIET UNION, AND UNITED STATES. UMBA DESCRIBED MEETING AS "ROUTINE CONTACT" WHERE PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAD INTENDED TO BE HOST, BUT HE SAID MOBUTU HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM PARTICIPATING BY ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT.

3. FON MINISTER REFERRED TO RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS ISSUED BY HIGH ANGOLAN OFFICIALS VISITING BRAZZAVILLE AND AT THE UNITED NATIONS

, AND AS WELL TO CONTINUING STATEMENTS OUT OF LUANDA, ACCUSING ZAIRE OF AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS AND ACTS AGAINST ANGOLA. UMBA SAID THAT THESE STATEMENTS GAVE A TOTALLY ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION OF ZAIRE'S CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE AND BELIED GOZ'S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA. IN FACT, UMBA SAID, GOZ COULD NOT HELP RECALLING THAT MARCH 1977 INCURSIONS FROM ANGOLA WERE PRECEDED BY A SIMILAR BARRAGE OF SUCH INVECTIVE FROM LUANDA AND THEREFORE WONDERED WHETHER THIS NOW WAS A PRELUDE TO NEW ANTI-ZAIRIAN ACTS.

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4. REVIEWING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS, UMBA RECALLED ZAIRE'S INVITATION TO NETO TO ATTEND MUOBUT'S INAUGURATION AND NETO'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO MOBUTU. WHEN NETO VISITED LAGOS IN JANUARY, HE HAD MADE POINT OF TAKING ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR ASIDE AND PROPOSING THAT MEETING BETWEEN NETO AND MOBUTU BE ARRANGED. ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT HAD REPLIED THAT IT COULD AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO SUCH A MEETING BUT PREFERRED FOR PRESENT TO CONTINUE JOINT COMMISSION TALKS AT BRAZZAVILLE AND CONSIDER EVENTUAL PREPARATORY MEETING AT FON MINISTER LEVEL BEFORE A MEETING OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS. LITTLE CONCRETE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AT JANUARY 21 MEETINGS AT BRAZZAVILLE. ANGOLANS HAD COMPLAINED THAT LOW LEVEL OF ZAIRIAN DELEGATION MEMBERS MADE ANY TREATMENT OF IMPORTANT ISSUES IMPOSSIBLE. ON OTHER HAND, ANGOLAN DELEGATION HAD STATED THAT IT HAD INSUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO COMMIT ITSELF TO JOINT COMMUNIQUE; LATTER THEREFORE HAD TO BE REFERRED BACK TO LUANDA AND NOW SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SHELVED BY ANGOLANS. ASKED WHETHER BRAZZAVILLE CONTACTS HAD BEEN SUSPENDED, UMBA REPLIED NEGATIVELY, BUT SAID NO DATE HAD BEEN SET FOR RESUMPTION OF CONTACTS IN THAT FRAMEWORK. UMBA SAID THERE IS STILL POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL MEET WITH ANGOLAN FON MINISTER, BUT ANY SUCH CONTACT WOULD HAVE TO BE DELAYED AT LEAST UNTIL UMBA'S TRAVELS TO WESTERN

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA COULD BE COMPLETED.

5. IN BRAZZAVILLE TALKS, UMBA SAID, GOZ HAD PROPOSED THAT NEUTRAL OUTSIDERS BE INVITED TO LOOK INTO QUESTION OF ANY BASES OF SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS ON EITHER SIDE OF BORDER. ANGOLANS HAD REJECTED THAT PROPOSAL. UMBA ASSERTED THAT NO ANTI-NETO ELEMENTS WERE BEING SUPPORTED BY GOZ BUT SAID LUANDA CONTINUED TO HARBOR, ENCOURAGE, AND SUPPORT EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID GOZ NOT ONLY REFRAINED FROM ASSISTING FLEC MOVEMENT IN CABINDA, BUT HAD ENCOURAGED FLEC TO MAKE PEACE WITH MPLA. IN THIS CONNECTION UMBA DESCRIBED HOW GOZ HAD RECENTLY ASSISTED PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO TRAVEL TO CABINDAN BORDER ON MISSION TO SECURE RELEASE OF SOME HOSTAGES WHICH FLEC HAD SEIZED NEAR FULF OIL INSTALLATION. FON MINISTER UMBA CHARACTERIZED THIS AS CONFIDENTIAL

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HUMANITATION EFFORT WHICH IMPLIED NO CLOSE GOZ CONNECTION WITH FLEC AND WAS CARRIED OUT IN INTEREST OF "AVOIDING DIFFICULTIES" WITH ANGOLA OVER CABINDA.

6. UMBA TOOK SPECIAL PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT ZAIRE'S SECURITY SITUATION NOW IS EXCELLENT BOTH INTERNALLY AND REGARDING ANY OUTSIDE THREAT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SCATTERED INCURSIONS ACROSS ANGOLAN BORDER BUT THAT THESE WERE NEGLIGIBLE AND HAD BEEN NEUTRALIZED PROMPTLY. HE SAID THAT GOZ POSSESSED EXCELLENT INTELLIGENCE ON ANTI-GOZ ELEMENTS IN ANGOLA AND WERE CONFIDENT OF ITS ABILITY TO COUNTER THE THREAT THEY POSED. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THOSE ELEMENTS WOULD NOT BE MISLED BY THEIR FRIENDS INTO AGAIN ATTEMPTING TO STIR UP TROUBLE OR MAKE INCURSIONS INTO ZAIRE.

7. UMBA CONCLUDED HIS PRESENTATION BY REPEATING THAT ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBORS. IN SPITE OF THIS, FON MINISTER SAID, ANGOLAN REGIME WAS CONSTANTLY RAISING THE LEVEL OF ITS INVECTIVE AGAINST GOZ AND THUS GAVE IMPRESSION THAT THIS MIGHT BE SMOKESCREEN FOR SUBVERSION AND AGGRESSIVE ACTS AGAINST ZAIRE. FOR THAT REASON, UMBA SAID, GOZ HAD UNDERTAKEN TO MAKE DIPLOMATIC DEMARCHES TO OAU AND UN ABOUT SITUATION, AND CONSIDERED IT ADVISABLE IN THAT CONNECTION TO ADVISE REPS OF PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL.

8. COMMENT: UMBA'S REMARKS WERE PRESENTED IN TEMPERATE LANGUAGE AND AVOIDED BELLICOSE THREATS. MAIN THREAD RUNNING THROUGH PRESENTATION WAS ASSERTION OF GOZ'S CONFIDENCE IN ITS ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ANY TROUBLE ANGOLA MIGHT CAUSE. I CAME AWAY FROM MEETING WITH IMPRESSION THAT THE MEETING WAS HELD PRIMARILY FOR BENEFIT OF SOVIET CHARGE AND THAT THE LATTER IS EXPECTED BY GOZ TO INTERPRET THE PRESENTATION AS A WARNING TO BOTH THE SOVIET AND ANGOLAN GOVERNMENTS. AT SAME TIME GOZ CLEARLY WAS SEEKING CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDERSTANDING AND MORAL SUPPORT OF ITS FOUR FRIENDS REPRESENTED  
AT THE MEETING.

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## Message Attributes

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